

leadership takes action—not merely talking points—no matter how difficult, to make a difference.

HARRY REID was at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 2015, commemorating the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. I looked at him there with Congressman JOHN LEWIS and President Barack Obama—the first African American elected as President—as one of the towering figures in America. But the true measure of a man is revealed not when he pauses to remember past injustices, he works to prevent them from happening. From pay equity to restoring the Voting Rights Act, from the repeal of don't ask, don't tell, to the enactment of the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act, there can be no doubt that Senator REID fights for every American, every day.

And yet, no matter how large a national leader Senator REID has become, he has never forgotten the people of Nevada. In him they have a tireless and effective champion of the highest caliber. Senator REID's work on behalf of Nevada has been relentless.

He has been our fighter. He has been our champion. And he has been a friend. He has faced and risen above personal adversity. He is a truly American story. And his presence here in the Senate will be missed next year. When Marcelle and I leave Washington for the last time, we will think of the special friends we have had. HARRY REID, Landra Reid—we will think of them. We wish them all the best as they begin their next chapter together.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, mountains, rivers, cities, and plains separate Vermont and California, two States as different as any in the country. But here in the U.S. Senate, we are on equal footing. It is one of the hallmarks of our Constitution and representative government. For over three decades, BARBARA BOXER worked to advance the priorities of Californians. Thankfully, in many ways, those priorities, despite the diversity of our States, have mirrored those of Vermonters.

A trailblazer in her own right, Senator BOXER rose to become the first woman to chair the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, where she fought to protect and preserve our environment, promote clean and safe drinking water, update our antiquated infrastructure, and improve public safety.

Senator BOXER was an early and vocal supporter of our efforts to reauthorize and expand the important Violence Against Women Act. Her passionate pleas to Senators and Members of the House to approve this critical—and lifesaving—bill was essential to the Senate's debate.

Of course, most important in Senator BOXER's life is her family. Like many, I was touched when she announced her retirement in an interview with her

grandson. She has been a tireless advocate for her home State and for the country. And now, in retirement, I hope she enjoys even more time with Stewart and her wonderful family. Far from finished fighting, I know BARBARA's voice will not be one soon forgotten in the U.S. Senate.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID VITTER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to briefly recognize the service of retiring Senator DAVID VITTER. Senator VITTER has served the people of Louisiana in Congress since 1999, through the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, across three different administrations, and through countless debates. As he retires from the Congress after nearly two decades of service to Louisiana, I wish him, his wife, Wendy, their four children and his entire family all the best in the next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO MARK KIRK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for nearly 16 years, Senator MARK KIRK has given voice to his Illinois constituents here in Washington. His long record of service includes work as a congressional staffer, a 24-year career as a naval intelligence officer, a U.S. Congressman, and a U.S. Senator.

Dedicated to several matters of national and international importance, Senator KIRK has supported a range of legislative efforts during his Senate tenure and has not shied from opposing his party's position. From supporting the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and efforts to repeal don't ask, don't tell, from his opposition to defunding Planned Parenthood and the blockade of President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Senator KIRK has emerged as a conservative voice in support of some of the most critical civil rights protections debated today.

When Senator KIRK returned to the Senate following his traumatic stroke in 2012, he showed his commitment to Illinois' voters. As Senator KIRK begins this new chapter, I wish him the very best.

TRIBUTE TO DAN COATS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is an honor for anyone to serve in the U.S. Senate. Giving voice to your constituents' views is a humbling responsibility. It is one thing to be called to serve; it is another to come back for a second tour of duty. Senator DAN COATS' life is one of public service, beginning with military service and culminating for now in his retirement this year from the Senate—his second tenure representing the people of Indiana.

Senator COATS has championed a number of efforts during his terms in the Senate. I am particularly grateful for his support of the National Guard and his support for our efforts to empower the National Guard within the

Pentagon. Senator COATS has been a watchdog of government spending, a supporter of critical home assistance programs for low-income families such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and was a supporter of our most recent efforts to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

Senator COATS has come a long way since his early days as a State staffer for then-Representative and future Vice President Dan Quayle. I am sure Hoosiers have not seen the last this public servant will offer. I wish him, his wife, Marsha, and their entire family the best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, New England is in itself a small community. We Senators who represent these States band together to fight for our urban and rural communities, to protect our borders, and to preserve the rich heritage on which our country was founded. For the last 6 years, one of those partners has been New Hampshire Senator KELLY AYOTTE. She has diligently sought to represent the Granite State.

Senator AYOTTE and I share a background in law enforcement; as New Hampshire's attorney general, she prosecuted many important cases. After her election to the U.S. Senate in 2011, Senator AYOTTE was recognized as one of the most influential women in her party. She has taken a practical, New England-style approach in the Senate. Like many of us from New England, she has been persistent in her efforts to call national attention to the opioid epidemic ravaging our communities and particularly hitting hard rural communities in Vermont and New Hampshire. She was a partner as we sought to advance and ultimately pass the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which should provide much needed support for those facing this crippling addiction. Her attention to this public health crisis will surely be a cornerstone of her Senate legacy.

I wish Senator AYOTTE, her husband, Joseph, and their children well in their future endeavors.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FINANCIAL REFORM

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, we all remember the very severe financial crisis of 2008, which precipitated a very severe recession from which we have had a very, very weak recovery. In many ways, we are still trying to recover from that. I want to talk a little about that, and I want to talk about